the weighted average cost of production of ONGC & OIL and return on capital employed. Its impact on pool account during 1996-97 is estimated to be Rs. 744 crores. The prices of petroleum products, are administered by the Government through the oil pool account mechanism. The position of the oil pool account is monitored on a continuous basis and measures taken to contain the deficit.

Shortage of LPG in Divisional Headquarters

602. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an acute shortage of LPG was reported on the 10th July, 1996, in the Divisional Headquarters, Jalpaiguri;

(b) whether similar shortage was also reported in other divisional headquarters of country during the period from July 1996 to January 1997;

(c) whether LPG connections booked in 1991 and onwards have not been released on maturity of turn, due to the above reasons;

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to remove the artificial shortage created by the vested interests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortage of LPG was reported in other Divisional Headquarters of the country also during the period July '96 to November '96.

(c) No, Sir. Connections are being released on maturity.

(d) and (e) The Oil Companies conduct raids under the LPG Control Order to keep check on artificial shortage of LPG also to ensure that LPG is used only for authorised purposes. Inspections are also being carried out at regular intervals by officers of the Oil Companies. More connections are being released all over the country every year.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में तेल चयन बोर्ड

603. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में 7 मार्च, 1995 को तेल चयन बोर्ड का गठन किया गया था;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि केवल एक महीने बाद ही 3 अप्रैल, 1995 को मंत्रालय के दिनांक 18 अप्रैल, 1995 के कार्यालय आदेश द्वारा इस बोर्ड को भंग कर दिया गया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या बोर्ड पर भाई-भतीजावाद और भ्रष्टाचार का आरोप लगाया गया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) सरकार ने इन शिकायतों को दूर करने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी॰ आर॰ बालू): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (ङ) हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए गठित तेल चयन बोर्ड 3 अप्रैल, 1995 से सार्वजनिक हित में भंग कर दिया गया था।

(च) तेल चयन बोर्डों, जिनमें हिमाचल प्रदेश का तेल चयन बोर्ड भी सम्मिलित है, का क्रियाकलाप वर्तमान में आस्थगित है। चयन प्रक्रिया के पुनरसक्रियण पर सरकार गम्भीरता के साथ विचार कर रही है।

MOU Between ONGC and UNOCAL Corporation for Gas Reserves in Tripura

604. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has signed a Memoradum of Understanding with the US based UNOCAL Corporation for